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ABSTRACT

This collection of resource material includes descriptions of historical and cultural factors dealing with Cuba and Cuban Americans. Included are brief descriptions of Cuba, its people, its agriculture and natural resources, and its economic development. A brief historical review of Cuba, ranging from its discovery to its takeover by the communists, is also provided. Tables and text are used to describe the Cuban migration to the United States and its impact on the city of Miami. Cuban fine arts, famous Cuban athletes, Cuban foods, and Cuban music are also described. (EB)

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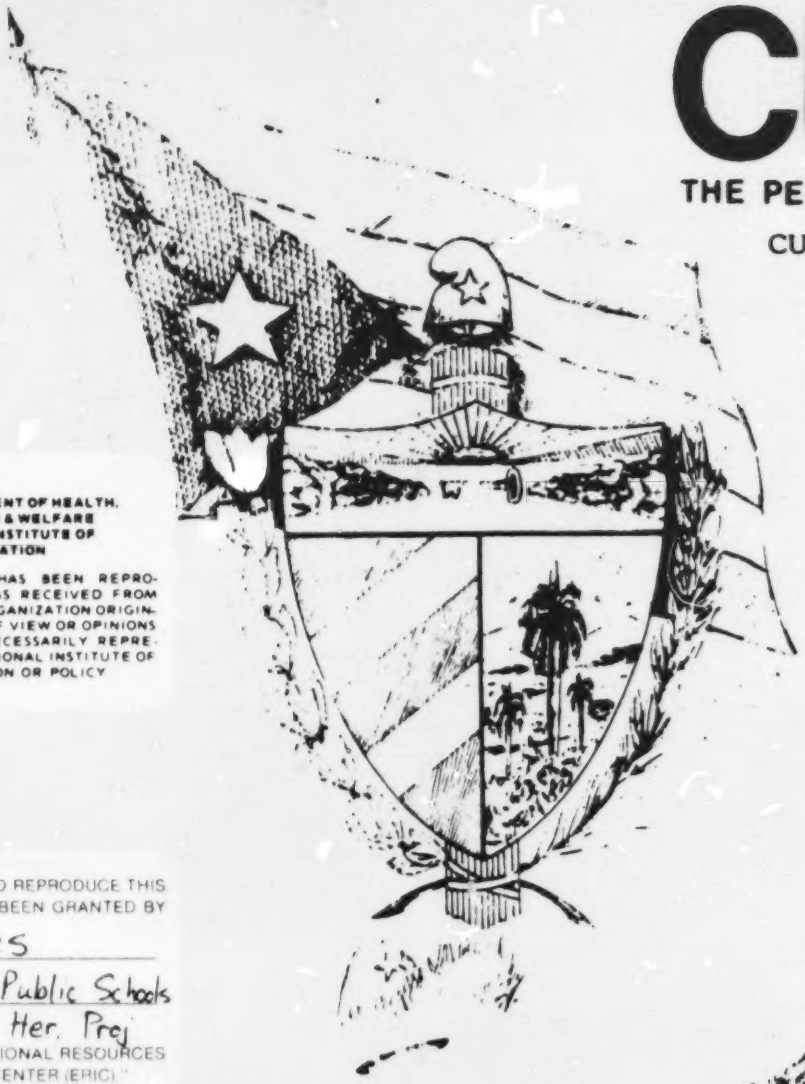
CUBA

THE PEARL OF THE ANTILLES

CUBAN ETHNIC STUDIES

Resource Material

Developed by:
Mrs. Margareta Bolet
and Ethnic Heritage Staff



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Project Director: Dr. Sidney Estes

Project Coordinator: Mrs. Jeannette Moon

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CUBAN ETHNIC STUDIES

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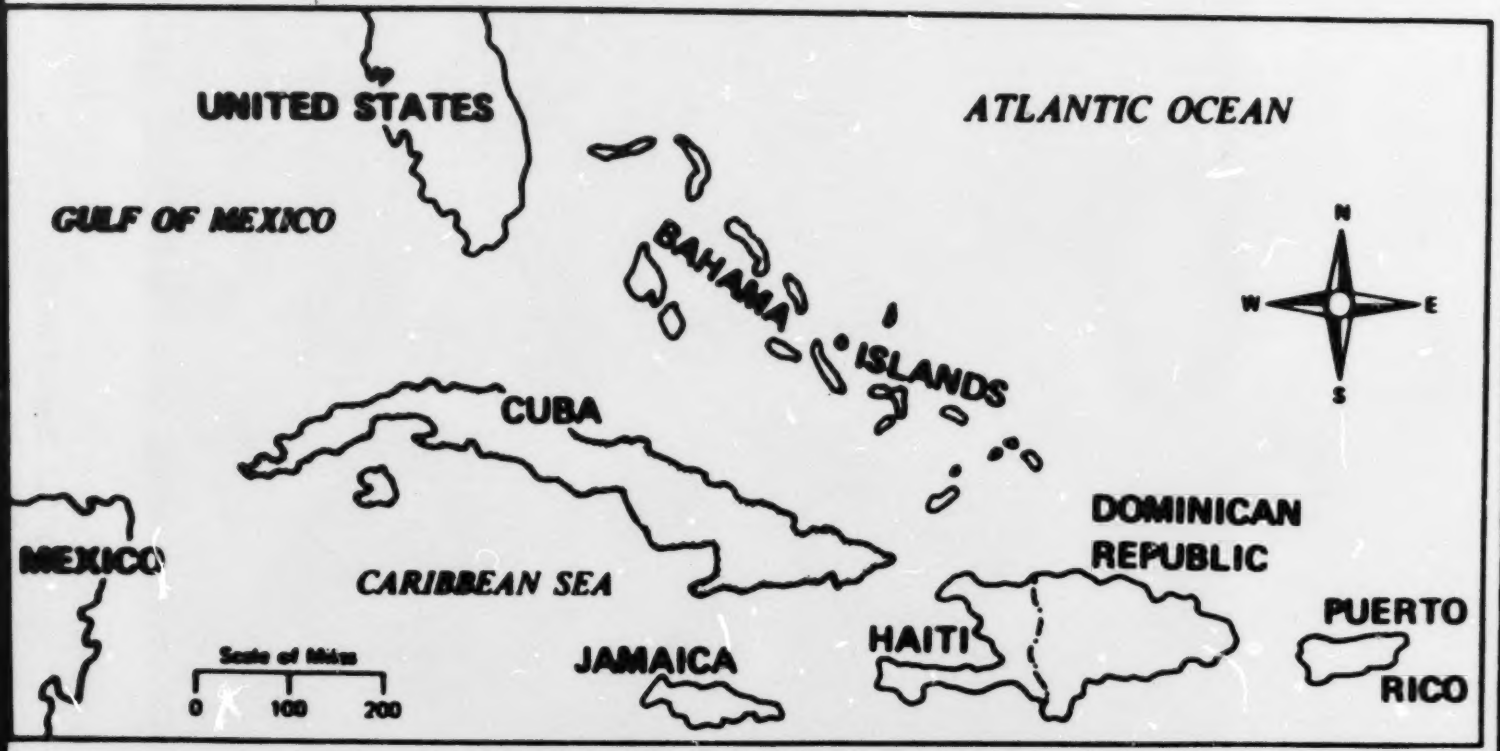


LOCATION MAP OF CUBA

CUBAN-AMERICANS

The Land:

Cuba is the largest island in the West Indies. It is about 700 miles long and about 50 miles in width. The island is situated at the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico about 90 miles from Key West, Florida.

Although most of Cuba is low, there are several mountain ranges: the Sierra de los Organos in the western province of Pinar del Rio, Sierra de Trinidad in the central part and in the eastern province of Oriente, the highest, Sierra Maestra. Its coastline is irregular and provides many fine harbors, like those of Havana, Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo, where the U.S. Military Base is located.

The main river is called the Cakto, about 150 miles long and is navigable for only half of its length.

Cuba lies in the tropics but the winds and surrounding water plus the Gulf Stream make its summers bearable and its winters usually warm and pleasant.

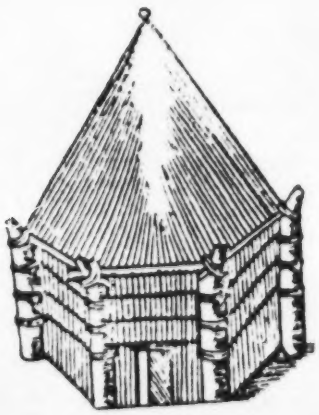
There are only two seasons, the dry season from November to April and the rainy season from May to October.

Because of the warm and even climate, adequate rainfall and fertile soil, thousands of kinds of tropical fruits and flowers grow there. The mountains are covered by forests that contain valuable trees. Mahogany, cedar, and royal palms are the most common.

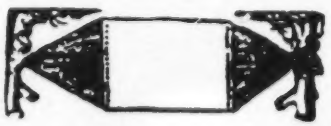
The People:

The original inhabitants of Cuba were the Tainos, Siboney, and Guanacabeye Indians. The Tainos, a large and more advanced group, lived in an agricultural society in the eastern and central part of the island. The Siboneys and Guanacabeyes, more primitive, lived in caves. These Indians were part of the Arawak tribes. Approximately two hundred years later, after the arrival of Spanish and other European settlers, they were wiped out by sickness, hard work, and slavery.

Many black slaves were imported at the end of the 16th century. Later on the Chinese came to Cuba. The result is the mixed population of modern Cuba. The majority of the 8,000,000 population, however, are of European descent, mainly Spanish. Spanish is the official language.



Taino Indian Hut



Taino's Hammock Used by Spanish

Agriculture and Natural Resources:

Cuba's fertile soil, the acres of level land suitable for large-scale cultivation and agreeable climate have made agriculture the chief occupation. Cuba ranks number two in the production of the world's cane sugar. For many years Cuba's economy was based on this one crop. Continued efforts to diversify agriculture have resulted in producing some of the world's finest tobacco as well as large crops of rice, soybeans, and other staples. Coffee, cacao, and vegetables of all kinds are grown throughout the country. Cattle and dairy farming are also common. Growing and processing sugar cane has been the main occupation of most of the Cuban people. Before the Castro revolution the colonial system was the traditional method of farming. The land was owned by a company, and farmers rented land and hired laborers to do the farm work. The farmer was paid for the cane he delivered to the mill.

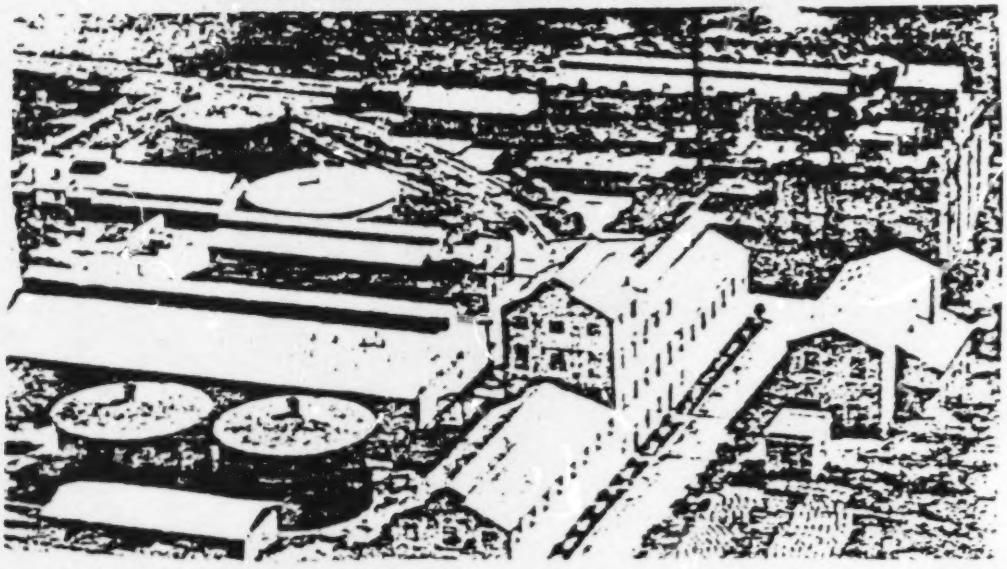
Sugar cane is grown from stem cuttings instead of from seed. The cutting is planted and new stalks sprout from its buds. In 12 to 18 months the green sugar canes are about six feet tall and can be harvested. The

Harvesting "King Sugar," for centuries the mainstay of the island's economy. *Courtesy of the Sugar Research Foundation.*

workers use machetes which are long, heavy knives to cut the stalks very close to the ground.

The canes are taken to sugar processing mills where they are fed through heavy steel rollers which crush out the sweet, slightly acid juice. This juice is boiled down in huge vats into a thick brown molasses. From this molasses raw sugar is extracted and the leftover molasses is made into rum and alcohol products. The raw sugar is sent to refineries and is made into the brown or white sugar with which we are familiar.

Sugar Factory in Oriente (1955)



Tobacco is the second most important crop in Cuba. Some of the best tobacco in the world comes from the Vuelta Abajo district of Pinar del Rio province in the extreme western part of the island. Young tobacco plants are put in the soil early in November and are harvested in January. Much care is required for this delicate plant, and often it is grown under the shade of cheesecloth stretched mile after mile to protect the tobacco from the strong sun.

Other crops are rice, corn, bananas, and citrus fruits. Cattle with its dairy products, sheep, pigs, horses, and goats are the principal livestock. Many Cubans keep bees.

The forests provide mahagony, rosewood, ebony, and various dyewoods. There is excellent fishing all year round, and sponge fishing is important off the southern coast. The Sierra Maestra has rich deposits of copper, manganese, iron, nickel, chromium, coal, gold, and silver.

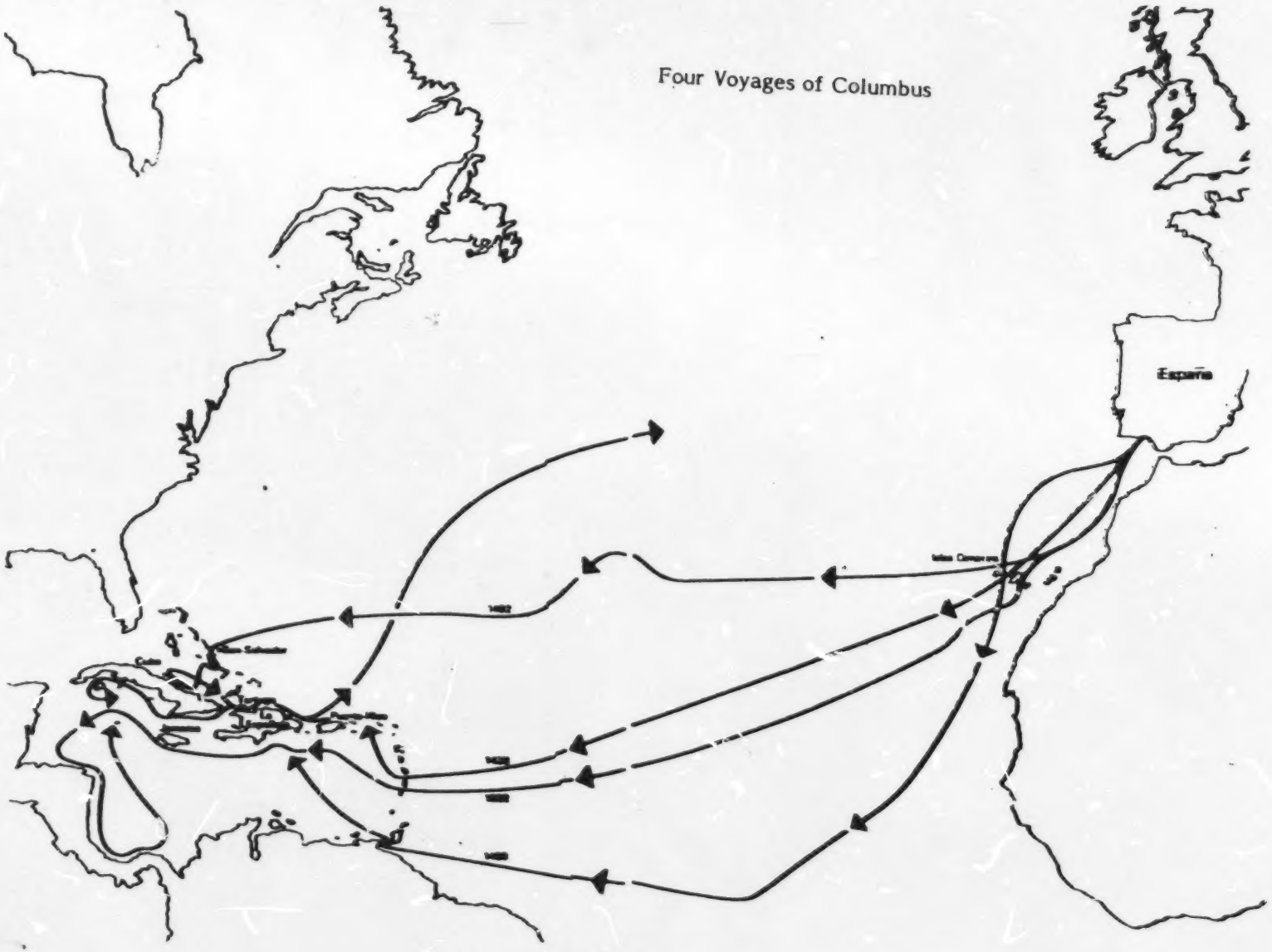
Economic Development:

With the arrival of the first Spanish settlers in Cuba, the economy of the island was developed around two primary products: sugar cane and tobacco. Although Cuba had extensive mineral resources, the Spanish were primarily interested in mining for gold and precious metals. The supplies were small and rapidly exhausted.

Mining reemerged as a major factor in the Cuban economy during World War II with the finding of large copper and iron deposits.

In addition, a flourishing tourist trade developed primarily from the U.S.

Also, American and European companies began to invest heavily in Cuba, opening several manufacturing facilities. (American Can Company, Firestone, Nestles, etc.)


Four Voyages of Columbus
España

BRIEF HISTORY OF CUBAN-AMERICANS

Early History:

Columbus discovered Cuba on October 28, 1492, about two weeks after he first set foot in the New World. Settlement did not begin, however, until 1511, when Diego Velasquez landed with 300 soldiers. Except for a brief interval of British rule (1762-1763), Cuba remained under Spain's control for four centuries.

In the sixteenth century, the Spaniards made Cuba the springboard for exploration. From this island, Ponce de Leon set sail in 1513 for the legendary "Fountain of Youth"; instead, he discovered Florida. Five years later, Hernan Cortez sailed from Cuba to conquer Mexico. In 1539, Hernando de Soto set out from Cuba on a gold treasure hunt and wound up discovering the Mississippi River.

Though overshadowed in economic importance by Mexico and Peru, Cuba grew rich from tobacco and sugar cane, and came to be known as the "Pearl of the Antilles." The island was so prosperous that it was attacked very often by buccaneers during the 1600's and 1700's.

Because the island was more easily reached by Spanish military forces than most of Spain's American colonies, Cuba could not join the liberation movements that started in Latin America during the 1800's.

Since that time, Cubans had been seeking a way to establish a national government. The first major revolt against Spain was the "10 Years War" that began the tenth of October of 1868, led by Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, with his call to arms Viva Cuba Libre! (Long Live Free Cuba!) and the freeing of his slaves.

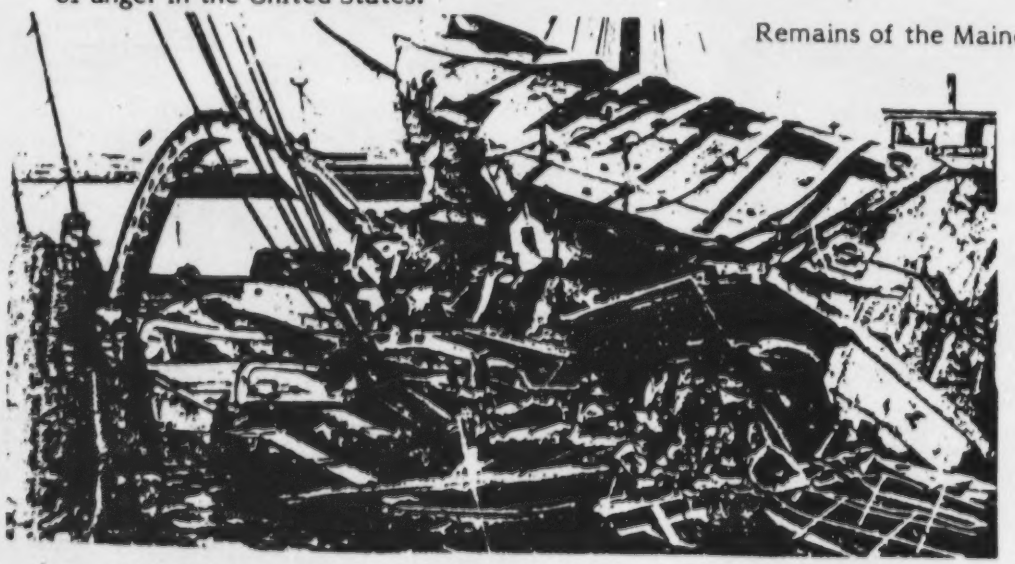
In vain, the Cuban revolutionaries turned to neighboring countries for help. The civilian population was herded into concentration camps where many died of hunger, sickness, and neglect. They were not able to win their fight, but by the "Zanjon Pact" they received some concessions from Spain. The Spanish commander, "Butcher" Weyler, was extremely cruel to the Cuban people while putting down the insurrection temporarily.

Cuban Cavalry Attacking Spanish Forces

In 1891, Jose Marti, a national hero considered the apostle of the country, great orator, and poet, began to recruit support and organize the many Cubans in exile in the United States, primarily in the New York, Tampa, and Key West areas. He lit the flame of revolution in the hearts of his countrymen, and the war began again in 1895 (War of Independence). Marti was killed in battle shortly after arriving in Cuba.

In 1898, a mysterious explosion sunk the United States battleship Maine in Havana's harbor, with great loss of life. This caused a tremendous burst of anger in the United States.

Remains of the Maine



The U.S. Enters the War

President McKinley got Congress's approval to intervene in Cuba. These events led up to the declaration of the Spanish-American War in 1898. The President stated that the United States position was to "assist the Cuban people who, after thirty years of struggle, deserved their freedom." In June of 1898, an American fleet sunk the Spanish fleet off Santiago de Cuba Bay. An expeditionary force, helped by Cuban troops, captured Santiago (the eastern capital of the country). This was the famous Battle of San Juan Hill with Teddy Roosevelt in charge.

This war ended quickly with the signing of the Treaty of Paris in December 1898, and with the evacuation of all Spanish troops. John Brook was appointed U.S. Military Governor of the island. During the period of U.S. occupation (1898-1902), many efforts were made by U.S. officials to improve sanitary conditions and other services on the war-torn island.

This period is of great importance, due to the work of the Cuban physician, Carlos Finlay. He laid the groundwork for the discovery of the role of the Anapheles Mosquito in transmitting yellow fever. Dr. Walter Reed provided the funds and encouraged Dr. Finlay to complete his experiments. His experiments were successful and were instrumental in stopping this disease.

Carlos Finlay Vaccinating Against Yellow Fever

In 1901, a Cuban constitution, very similar to the U.S. Constitution, was drawn up and adopted. In 1902, American forces left Cuba and the island became an independent republic with its first president, Tomas Estrada Palma. However, under the terms of the Platt Amendment, the United States reserved the right to intervene in the internal affairs of Cuba. This right was exercised in 1933 when a violent revolt erupted against the dictator Gerardo Machado. In 1934, Cuba became a sovereign nation.

In 1952, Fulgencio Batista seized control of the government in a bloodless coup and ruled as a military dictator, bringing tyranny and terrorism. The underground movement, led by young university students, was begun to overthrow Batista.

The Rise of Fidel Castro:

Among those who disliked Batista was a young lawyer named Fidel Castro. Castro was a leader of an unsuccessful raid against the Moncada Army Barracks near Santiago on July 26, 1953. Some attackers were killed and others captured by the Batista government. Fidel and his brother, Raul, escaped to the nearby mountains. The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Santiago secured a fair trial for the rebels.

At his trial, Fidel Castro accused the Batista regime of betraying the Cuban people and used his trial to announce the objectives of his revolutionary movement — which from then on was called the "26th of July Movement." Castro promised social justices and distribution of wealth. After serving one year of his fifteen-year sentence, Castro escaped to Mexico, where he began to recruit and train forces to invade Cuba. In Mexico, Castro met the Argentine-born physician, Ernesto "Che" Guevara, an avowed communist.

In 1956, Castro landed on the eastern coast of Cuba near the Sierra Maestra Mountains. They hid in the mountains and within two years formed a guerrilla force of several thousand men.

Operating from the Sierra Maestra Mountains, they attacked the Batista military. The morale of the government troops fell lower and lower and, finally, in January of 1959, Batista was overthrown by a revolution led by Castro. Castro then proclaimed himself premier.

The Communist Takeover:

It is agreed by many historians that Castro had communist support from the time he was training his forces in Mexico. His friend, Che Guevara, was a communist and Soviet agent.

Soon after the Castro takeover, they seized the headquarters of other political parties. Castro's rebel army was quickly infiltrated by communists who also wanted control of all the labor unions.

Castro's people mounted a full-scale attack to discredit every anti-communist in the Cuban government. One of the most important targets was the Foreign Minister, Dr. Roberto Agramonte, who declared that Cuba would not establish diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union. Most of the communist objectives were obtained and supported by Guevara.

On July 17, 1959, President Urrutia was forced to resign due to criticism of the communists in the government. He was replaced with Dr. Dorticos, a communist, and on July 26, 1961, Castro celebrated the anniversary of his revolution by declaring Cuba a Socialist state. He established a one-party system like the other communist countries. Castro later said, "I am a Marxist-Leninist and I shall be to the last of my life."

Fidel Castro and "Che" Guevara after seizing power in 1959

As Castro assumed power, he conducted a series of public trials of Cubans who had not cooperated with him. Many of these people were found guilty and were executed. At first, Castro expressed friendship with the United States, but in 1960, before a meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Castro denounced the United States.

In the summer of 1960, President Eisenhower asked Congress for an embargo against Cuban sugar, and Castro replied by seizing a billion dollars worth of U.S. properties in Cuba. Soon after, the U.S. banned all exports to Cuba, except for medicines and food, and all U.S. tourist travel was stopped. On January 3, 1961, after Castro demanded that the U.S. Embassy staff be cut, President Eisenhower broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba.

The Bay of Pigs signifies the attempted invasion of Cuba. It is probably the most controversial and debated event in Modern Cuba — U.S. relationships. A force of about 1,800 Cuban exiles had been secretly trained and armed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. On April 17, 1961, they landed at the Bay of Pigs on the southern coast of Cuba. At the same time, paratroopers were dropped at sites inland from the Bay of Pigs with the assignment to cut off all communications so that Castro's forces could not fight off this beachhead invasion.

Castro's Air Force was supposed to have been destroyed, but they were not. They completely destroyed the invaders' protective air cover and sank the supply ships. Those who survived were left without food, water, and ammunition. Castro was triumphant. President Kennedy was greatly criticized by the American Press for not supporting the invaders and was blamed for the failure.

The Cuban Missile Crisis, October 1962, involved the U.S. and USSR in a confrontation over Cuba. President Kennedy announced that USSR missiles, capable of striking Washington, D.C. and other U.S. cities, as well as Latin

American sites, had been installed secretly by the soviets on Cuban territory. He demanded that Premier Khrushchev end this threat immediately. He called for an immediate blockade of Cuba and for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to take action against the USSR's threat to world peace. U.S. military forces were put on alert, and the U.S. Naval base at Guantanamo, Cuba was reinforced.

Premier Khrushchev agreed to remove the missiles from Cuba, and the crisis ended in diplomatic victory for the U.S.

Castro continued by interfering in Latin American countries. He sent Cuban armed forces to Haiti and Guatemala, and attempted to overthrow the governments of other countries.

In 1964, these actions resulted in the Organization of American States vote to suspend Cuba from membership. Member nations broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Castro turned to USSR and Red China for markets for Cuban sugar.

During the early 1970's, many nations have resumed diplomatic and economic relations with Cuba. The U.S. and Cuba signed an agreement to stop air hijacking.

Cuba's economy has suffered because of short sugar cane harvests and the decline of free-world purchases. Today, Cuba is still dependent on the USSR for economic and military support. However, Cuba recently participated in the invasion of Angola, proving that it maintains military strength.

CUBANS IN THE UNITED STATES

The Cuban minority is the third largest Spanish-speaking group in the U.S. Most have migrated from Cuba since 1959 to escape the political regimes of Batisto and Castro. The over one-half million who have escaped constitute the largest refugee aid operation in U.S. history.

It is unique to the U.S. because the Cuban refugees have been largely middle class, and they have entered the U.S. within a very short period of time. This large group of self-imposed political exiles now constitute strong ethnic communities in many U.S. urban areas.

Most of the people escaping from Cuba landed in Florida, mostly in Miami. In 1960, the Walfare Planning Council of Dade County, Florida called a meeting of local and voluntary agencies to form a Cuban Refugee Committee to work with Mr. Tracy Voorhees, Special Representative of President Eisenhower. One million dollars was allocated to establish and maintain a refugee center in Miami. By 1961, President Kennedy directed Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, Abraham Ribicoff, to undertake a study of the situation. Secretary Ribicoff was to make use of private services for the refugees to the greatest extent possible.

From the beginning, the Cuban refugees have felt that they were considered friends by the U.S. Every effort was made to leave the refugees free to choose their own destiny.

One of the top priorities of this program was the resettling of refugees away from the Miami area. Resettlement was handled through four voluntary agencies: U.S. Catholic Conference, the Church World Service (Protestant), the United HIAS Service (Hebrew Immigrant Aid), and the International Rescue Committee (non-Sectarian).

The head of the family was asked to select one of these four agencies. From then on, the selected agency was in charge of planning for

resettlement. Most of the resettlement was handled by the U.S. Catholic Conference because of the religious composition of the Cuban population.

Resettled refugees, whether going to relatives or to a sponsor, or to a job far from Miami, were paid for their transportation expenses and a "transitional grant" was given by the Cuban Refugee Program to help in the adjustment period. The transitional grants were at a level of $100 per family or $60 per person without a family. "Pocket Money" and temporary accommodations were also provided in Miami to refugees "en route."

The sponsoring group or organization was responsible for finding temporary housing and arrangements for job interviews, etc.

According to Cuban Refugee Center data, Cuban refugees have been resettled to all 50 states, and they have gone to more than 2,400 communities. The basic statistics on settlement of refugees is found in Table 1. (page 16)

In later years, we saw the phenomenon of many Cubans returning to the area of Miami.

There are over 750,000 persons of Cuban extraction in the U.S. The above figures represent only those persons resettled by the Refugee Program. There is evidence that there are over 15,000 Cubans living in the state of Georgia alone.

TABLE I

CUBAN REFUGEE PROGRAM

U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare

Social and Rehabilitation Service

April 30, 1971

THREE PERIODS OF THE PROGRAM

February 1961 to Missile Crisis Oct. 1962 (Commercial flights from Havana)		Missile Crisis to December 1, 1965 (No direct transportation)		Family Reunion (or U.S. airlift) Phase Dec. 1/65 - April/71	
				All Refugee Arrivals	251,995
Registrations	153,534	Registrations	29,962		
Resettlements	48,361	Resettlements	46,547	Resettlements	182,993
TOTALS - Feb./61 - April/71		REGISTRATIONS	418,002	RESETTLEMENTS	277,901

Through April./71, Persons coming by airlift since December 1, 1965, numbered 231,948 in 2,723 flights
Rate of resettlement away from Miami runs at 73.0% of airlift arrivals.
Overall resettlement rate is 73.0% of registrations.

By Voluntary Resettlement Agencies since February 1961:

		REGISTERED	RESETTLED
USCC	(Catholic)	279,376	176,358
IRC	(Non Sect.)	86,732	58,105
CWS	(Protestant)	47,475	40,615
HIAS	(Hebrew)	4,419	2,823

SMALL BOAT ARRIVALS

June 30/61 - April./71

Persons	11,099
Boats	1,333

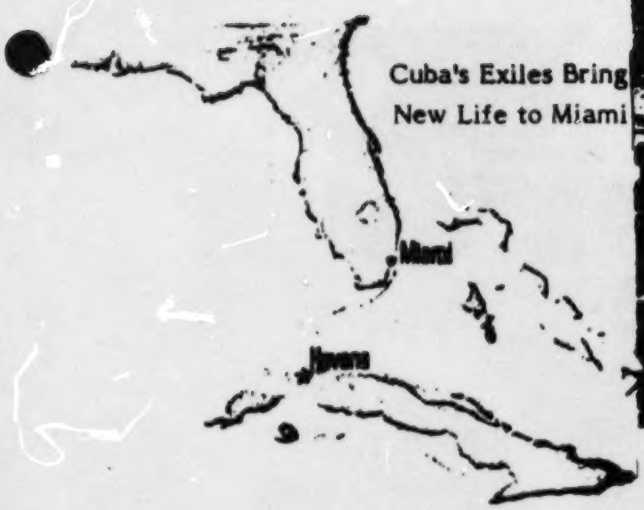
OCCUPATION AND AGE CATEGORIES OF AIRLIFT ARRIVALS

		AGES	
Professional, semi-prof., managerial	6.0%	0 - 5	10.5%
Clerical & Sales	11.4%	6 - 18	24.0%
Skilled	9.1%	19 - 29	8.6%
Semi-skilled	3.9%	30 - 39	19.5%
Service occupations	3.4%	40 - 49	15.7%
Farm-fishing	1.9%	50 - 60	10.4%
Children, students, housewives	64.3%	61 - 65	4.1%
		Over 65	7.2%

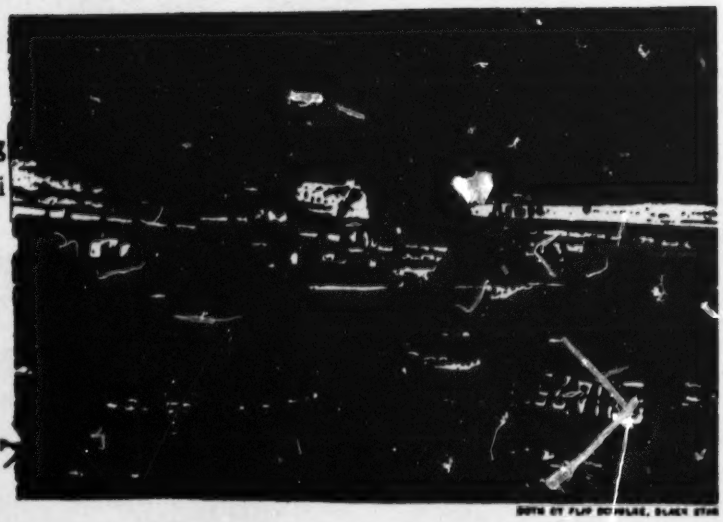
CUBAN REFUGEES HAVE BEEN RESETTLED TO SELF SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES IN ALL 50 STATES AND MORE THAN 3,000 COMMUNITIES

The 15 States (and D.C.) — outside of Florida — that have the greatest numbers are, as of April 30, 1971

New York	76,226	Massachusetts	7,628	Ohio	2,319
New Jersey	53,816	Texas	5,078	D. Columbia	2,246
California	36,422	Pennsylvania	3,677	Georgia	2,245
Illinois	20,488	Connecticut	3,609	Virginia	2,020
Louisiana	7,791	Michigan	2,555	Maryland	1,693



Cuba's Exiles Bring New Life to Miami



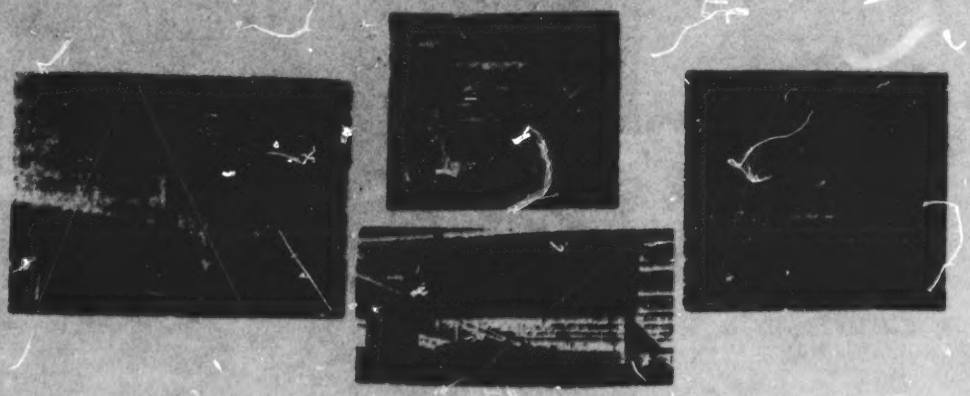
Symbols of courage, boats that carried Cuban refugees to freedom lie abandoned at the U. S. Coast Guard Base in Key West. More than one such craft has been found bobbing empty after storms in the Straits of Florida.

Cubans in Miami:

Cubans have left their particular mark on Miami. Over the last 15 years, they have worked to improve its economy and have established more than several hundred blocks of businesses. Many call it "Little Havana." Miami's tropical playground for the wealthy never expected to become a Latin capital with heavy trading with Central and South America.

These business establishments range from the Suave Shoe Corporation (sold 42 million in 1972) to art galleries, restaurants, etc. There are 39 Spanish newspapers and magazines published there. One is a daily publication (Diario de las Americas) that has a circulation of over 65,000 and is received not only in Miami, but in other states where large numbers of Cubans have relocated, as well as in Central and South America. Three television channels broadcast in Spanish. Four radio stations, five theatres show only Spanish films or American films with Spanish subtitles.

Cubans operate over 25 private schools, more than 25 clinics, their own phone directory, and a Latin Chamber of Commerce to serve the Cuban community. Cuban builders are involved in more than 40 per cent of all new construction in Miami, ranging from the tallest building in downtown to the remodeling and rebuilding of old neighborhoods and the development of new ones.



Many Cubans hold jobs in the garment district, reviving the industry to the point where it challenges California for supremacy in the manufacturing of sportswear.

In the financial community, Cubans hold five of the area bank presidencies. Most of the loans were given on faith of previous business experiences in Cuba. Because U.S. legal codes differ greatly from that of Cuba, lawyers have had great difficulty. Cuban attorneys have had to find other areas of employment such as professors or consultants and researchers in law firms.

For a Latin, a restaurant is more than a place to eat. It is a place to discuss politics, to pour out one's soul, to mourn for a friend, to complain over prices, etc. You can find many Spanish restaurants, large and small, with some of the most exquisite food being served.

This business phenomenon was not only due to the many Cubans that settled in Miami, but to those who had located in the cold north, returned to Miami with their pockets full of hard-earned money, ready to start their own businesses.

Cubans find Miami's climate to their liking, and Miami has found Cubans likeable. The climate is very similar to the one they left in their homeland, but more so is the lifestyle. It is jokingly said that in Maimi you "can be born, live, and be buried Cuban style."

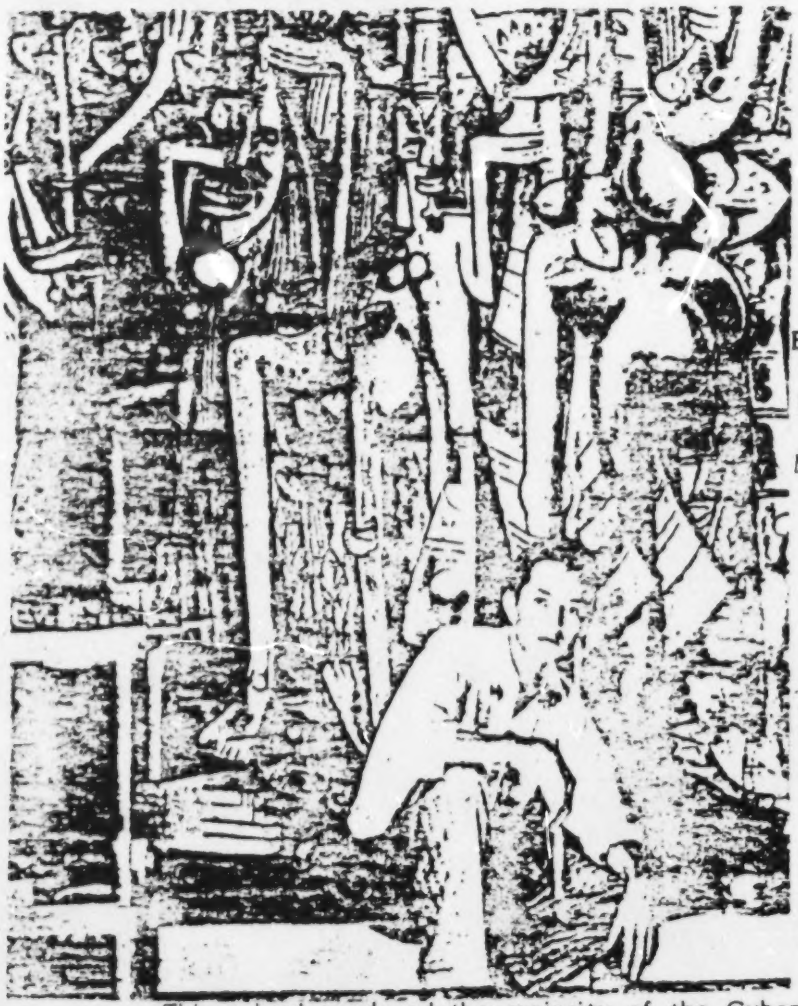
THE ARTS IN CUBA

Painting and Sculpture

Unlike the other countries in the Caribbean and the Central and South American continents, Cuba has a unique flavor in its artistic expressions. In these other countries were great native civilizations that existed long before the Spanish colonists came. Ancient civilizations had developed their own art much to the amazement of the proud Spanish "discoverers." Indians in Cuba became extinct and left practically nothing in the plastic arts. Cuban art, therefore, is a unique blend of Spanish and European influences with a strong dose of African culture introduced by the Negro slaves brought to Cuba in the early 1800's to work in the sugar fields. This mixture developed into a folklore that is reflected both in painting and sculpture, as well as music, dance, and poetry.

The Five Arts School San Alejandro founded in La Habana in 1818 greatly influenced Cuban fine arts.

Patterned after the San Fernando Academy of Marloid and the Academic de Beaux Arts of Paris, its approach was to saturate the student with all recognized artistic techniques from the earliest possible time in his artistic development. Many of the students that were accepted were teenagers. The program of studies was very intense, and the goal was for the student to discover his artistic expression and media. Among the founders of this academy were Alejandro Ranisrez and Leopoldo Romanach. Romanach studied in Spain and Italy. He met and worked with many of the great Spanish painters of his times and transmitted to his students his knowledge and experience.



Wilfredo Lam.

Background, his painting The Jungle, now in the collection of the Museum of Modern Art, New York

This school produced the majority of the Cuban painters of modern times; among them, Fidelio Ponce and Armando Menocal both impressionists. Menocal painted many scenes from Cuba's long war for independence. Of the Cuban painters of greater international renown, we find Wilfredo Lam, son of Chinese and Mulatto parents. He was born in Cuba in 1902. He received a scholarship to study in Spain where he became involved in political activities. He was attracted to Picasso who saw in the young Cuban a blend of modern expression and primitive concepts. Lam returned to Cuba in 1941 and developed his own style. Many of his works hang in the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in New York. His most famous is "La Jungla" (The Jungle).

Courtesy of the Museum of Modern Art, New York

The Rape of the Mulatas, by Carlos Enriquez

Bamba Rhythm, by T. Romeo Romeo

Carlos Enriquez painted many scenes from everyday lives. His "Rape of the Mulatas" hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art in New York.

THE MIAMI HERALD Friday, June 30, 1972

PAINTINGS BY Oliva Robain hung in Fidelity National Bank recently. The display of art is just one of the contributions Cuban refugees have brought to the culture of Dade County. Robain, who is a former free-lance publicity agent in Cuba, has also illustrated many books since coming to the United States. He works as a textile designer and his paintings, described as romantic, contain soft colors and most usually depict the Madonna.

Cuban artists have distinguished themselves after they left their country and are now residing in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Spain, and other Latin American countries.

Literature:

It is impossible to give a comprehensive view of Cuban Literature in such a short space. Cuban writers and poets have distinguished themselves for over 400 years. The best known include:

Cubans have their own encyclopedia, eight volumes, called "La Encidopedia de Cuba" (The Cuban Encyclopedia), published in Puerto Rico in 1971.

Jose Marti — Marti was born in 1853 and lived most of his adult life in New York. Very little of his writing is translated into English, but he had great influence on Cuban's fight to be a free nation. He wrote of the democratic ideal of tolerance and of personal relations in a political world, themes freshly applicable to today's problems.

During his exile in the U.S., Marti supported himself by writing for many Spanish newspapers and magazines. One of these publications was "La Edad de Oro" (The Golden Age) written for children, in which he trys to describe the history of mankind to the young, whom Marti called "the hope of the world."

We can also hear his verses in the famous song "la Guantanamera."

Yo soy un hombre sincero,
De donde crece la palma,
Y antes de morirme quiero,
Echar mis veasos del alma.

(I am a sincere man, from where the palm trees grow, and before I die I want to pour out the verses of my soul.)

His life was completely dedicated to Liberate, that is, to liberate his native land from Spanish rule. The Cuban revolution started in 1868 and continued with much bloodshed for nearly forty years. Many Cubans, both black and white, gave their lives for their country.

Translated below are some of the most moving and significant parts of the article Mi Raza (MiRace) which are as appropriate today as it was when Marti wrote it 85 years ago.

"MiRace" by Jose Marti
April 16, 1893

"The term "racist" is becoming a confusing one and must be defined. A man does not have any special privileges just because he happens to belong

to this or that race. Blacks, just because they are black, are not inferior or superior to any other men, a white man that says "my race" is being redundant, just as a black man that speaks of "his race." Everything that divides, tags, separates, or corners men is a sin against humanity as a whole. Who will be the sensible white man who thinks he is better just because he is white? And what do blacks think of the white who does so and thinks he has special privileges because of it? What will whites think of the black man who is proud of the fact that he is black? To insist in the division of races, in racial differences in a nation that is already divided because of political reasons is to put obstacles in the way of public happiness which lies in the things that will make men live as a community.

"I have to argue that the fact that people of a certain race have been bound into slavery does not make them inferior. The white Gauls with blond hair and blue eyes were all sold as slaves in the markets of Rome with rings around their neck. No one has argued that Frenchmen and Germans were inferior due to this episode in their history. But these arguments should be used to demonstrate that all races, including blacks, have the right to prove that their color does not deny them of any of the capabilities or rights of the human race.

"The agreement of characters is more powerful than having the same color . . . . men of pomp and circumstance, black and white, will always band together against generous and disinterested men of any race. True men, black or white, will treat each other with loyalty and tenderness, placing merit above all and pride in whatever makes men honorable and proud of their native land in which both black and white were from — Cuba will never have racial strife. The Republic cannot turn back (to Colonial slavery), and the Republic since its first constitution in April of 1868 has always talked about Cubans, not black or white Cubans . . . ."
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Cirilo Villaverde wrote the famous novel Cecilia Valdez (1889). This was the first romantic novel in America without the Scottish flavor. In this novel, Villaverde describes the customs of the times (1812 to 1830), the different social classes and, most important, the language used by each of the social classes in Spanish Cuba. This makes Cecilia Valdez not only a novel, but an historical document on the social structure of the early 1800's.

Other famous writers were Heredia, Gertrudez Gomez de Auellaneda, Bonifacio Byrne, and in modern times, Jorge Manach.

Statue of Jose Marti

Famous Cuban Athletes

Pedro Oliva, Jr. (Tony) born July 20, 1941, Pinardel Rio, Cuba. Oldest Minnesota Twin in point of service. He became the 89th member of baseball's 200 Homerun Club in June 1975.

Ralph Artega born July 6, 1953, in Havana, Cuba. He is one of the very few Cuban-Americans in professional football.

Cuban Foods

Cubans, in general used the Spanish system in preparing foods. There were two heavy meals during the day, lunch and supper, and two light meals, breakfast and "merienda," an afternoon snack.

A typical Cuban breakfast consists of Cuban coffee with milk and Cuban bread (resembles French bread) with butter. You eat lunch between 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m., usually some type of meat (beef, chicken, or fish), rice, a boiled vegetable, a salad, and a dessert. You always have a little cup (demi-tasse) of very strong Cuban coffee afterwards.

Many persons used to have a "merienda" (mayreendah) between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m. It usually consists of ice cream or fresh fruit, milk shakes, or a fruit paste with cream cheese. Cuban crackers, which are very large and tasty, are also eaten.

Supper is served between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m., and usually consists of soup, yellow or white rice, a light meat or fish dish, salad usually with fruits such as avocado and pineapples, dessert, and coffee.

Typical Cuban dishes come from many origins reflecting the people of Cuba:

Casabe — of Indian origin. It consists of a paste made from a pulpous vegetable called yuca. The Cuban Indians, like American Indians, were mistreated by the Spanish colonists and died out, but the dish remained popular.

Paella — of Spanish origin. This is a fancy "party" dish and is prepared by mixing yellow rice with all types of seafood, chicken, pimentos, and peas. There are many ways of preparing this popular dish.

Lechon asado — typical of the Cuban countryside. Cuban guajiros (farmers) roast pork by cooking the entire animal over a slow-baked fire of charcoal in a pit. It is seasoned with salt, garlic, sour oranges, and other condiments.

Ajiaco — a favorite with all Cubans, rich and poor. It consists of a stew made with meat and all kinds of very special vegetables (Yuca, malanga, boniato, malanga, yame). These vegetables are related to the sweet potato family, but each has its own distinct taste.

Cuban Rice with Black Beans — a standard dish served at lunch or supper.

Cuban desserts tend to be very sweet and syrupy. Most popular are made of the native fruits which are abundant and delicious. Mango, mamey, anon, and fouta bomba are among the tastiest. Other typical desserts are "flan," a rich custard with caramel topping, and "Asroz con leche," a dessert made with rice, condensed milk, cinnamon, and others.

These are many of the typical Cuban dishes, but it must be noted that Cuban cuisine is very cosmopolitan, reflecting European, oriental, and even American tastes. This was caused by immigration and tourism from all these countries.

Arroz con Frijoles

CUBAN RICE WITH BLACK BEANS

1½ cups black beans
1 quart water
1 large onion, minced
2 cloves garlic
1 green pepper
1 bay leaf
1 tablespoon salt
1 teaspoon pepper
2 cloves
1½ cups rice
1½ cups hot water
¼ cup olive oil
¼ pound smoked ham, minced

Wash beans thoroughly and let them stand overnight in water; use a 3-quart saucepan with lid, or a Dutch oven. Next day boil in same water 40 minutes. Add more water if necessary. Beans should be tender but whole. Add half the onion, garlic and green pepper and half the bay leaf, salt, pepper, and cloves to the beans. Add rice and hot water. Cover and cook over low heat until rice is tender and dry, about 40 minutes. Stir once, turning rice from bottom to top. Remove from heat. Add ¼ cup of oil and allow to stand for 5 minutes. In remaining oil, sauté ham. When this is half fried, add remaining onion, garlic, green pepper and seasonings. Sauté until brown. Serve over beans and rice. Yield: 6–8 servings.

Picadillo Cubano

CUBAN HASH

1 pound ground beef
¼ pound pork, finely ground
2 teaspoons salt
½ teaspoon black pepper
1 cup dry sherry
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 large onion, chopped
1 medium green pepper, chopped
¼ cup capers
½ cup pitted green olives, sliced
½ cup olive oil
1 large bay leaf
Dash of cumin, optional
Dash of oregano, optional
1 can tomato paste
½ cup raisins
½ cup blanched almonds

Mix beef and pork thoroughly with the salt and pepper. Add ½ cup sherry and let stand 2 hours. Sauté garlic, onion, green pepper, capers and olives in oil in heavy skillet until onion is light brown. Add meat, bay leaf, cumin, oregano, tomato paste, raisins and almonds. Cook for 1 hour over low heat. Remove from heat, add remaining sherry and let stand 5 minutes. Yield: 6 servings.

Ropa Vieja

RAGGEDY BEEF STEW

2 pounds boneless beef (flank or chuck), cut into 1-inch cubes
3 slices bacon or ½ cup diced ham
1 carrot, peeled and sliced
1 turnip, peeled and sliced
1 leek or 1 green onion, chopped
2 quarts water
1 medium onion, diced
1 clove garlic, minced
3 tablespoons butter
1 green pepper, diced
2 1-pound cans tomatoes
1 bay leaf
2 cloves
1 tablespoon salt
¼ teaspoon black pepper
1 teaspoon paprika
1 cup bread crumbs
3 sweet pimientos, diced
Croutons
Chopped parsley

lace meat in 3-quart saucepan. Add bacon or ham, carrot, turnip, and leek or onion. Add water. Cover and simmer for 3 to 4 hours, or until meat shreds easily. Remove meat from saucepan. Pound it with meat mallet or edge of heavy saucer until meat is a mass of ragged shreds. If necessary, separate fibers with fork, to shred.

Cook onion and garlic in butter in large skillet until yellow. Add green pepper, tomatoes, bay leaf, cloves, salt, pepper and paprika. Simmer for 10 minutes or until green pepper is soft. Add this mixture to the broth in which meat was cooked. Simmer slowly for 5 minutes to blend flavors. Strain mixture and thicken strained liquid with bread crumbs. Add half the pimientos and the shredded meat to thickened stock and simmer slowly for 15 to 30 minutes. Garnish with remaining pimientos, croutons and parsley. Serve hot. Yield: 6 servings.

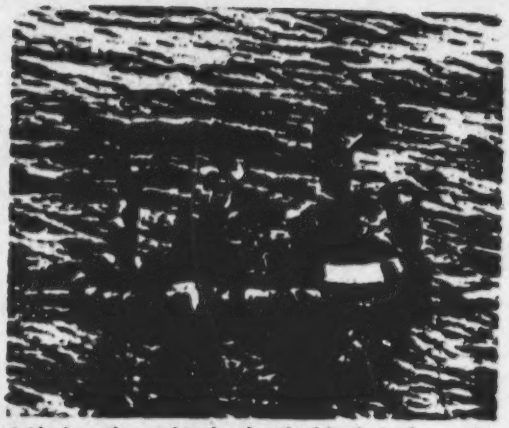
Cuban Music

Cuba has a long musical history beginning in the colonial era when music, like most cultures, followed Europe closely. Lately, Cuban composers discovered the riches of the African rhythms and instruments.

One of the best known Cuban composers, now a refugee in the U.S., is Ernesto Lecuona. "Siboney," "Say Si Si," and "Always in My Heart" are his best known works. Senor Lecuona considers Afro-Cuban music the true expression of Cuban soul. He wrote "Danza Lucumi" using African themes. (Lucumi was one of the African tribes raided by slave traders.)

Xavier Cougat introduced the rumba and the conga in New York, and shortly afterwards, these rhythms became part of the American musical folklore.

The pulsating African rhythms merged with the general beauty of Spanish melodies and created an exotic combination of harmony and rhythm that has become Cuba's unique musical gift to the world.



Aside from those who abandon the island via the regular services, that is to say, the airlift between Varadero and Miami, there are many who fleeing Castro's persecution, and not being able to wait any longer, decide to cross the ocean on improvised crafts.

The Exodus and Success of Cubans

By Harvey Rosenhouse

"When I left Cuba I left my life, I left my love" so reads a verse from a popular song by exiled Cubans. The words are sad, and true. However, fortunately, the majority of the half million Cubans who fled Fidel Castro's dictatorship, have found a new life and love in a foreign land. It is only natural that exiles miss their island, but surprisingly, they have adapted themselves very well to the new environment in other areas and have known how to prosper with new opportunities. All countries where Cubans have settled, have benefited from this immigration. At the same time they have contributed to the welfare of the community, many have prospered. Some who left their country without a penny have become rich in a foreign land through hard work, ingenuity and luck.

WITHOUT PRECEDENT: One outstanding point covering the Cuban exodus is its magnitude. Approximately 1% of Cuba's population selected exile. And they continue to abandon the island at the rate of almost 4,000 persons a month, via the Varadero-Miami Airlift as well as commercial flights via Madrid or México. In a short time the exodus could reach 10% of the population of the country. An escape of such proportions, of people who cannot tolerate their government, is without precedent in the history of social revolutions. What made this possible was Castro's decision to permit many to abandon the island, and the decision of the United States to permit the entry of those discontent with the Castro regime.

Basically, the exodus is made up of urban, middle and upper class elements of pre-revolutionary Cuban society, educated and competent. The exodus is not, in any manner, a sample of the social classes of Cuba. About one-third completed high school and 12.5 percent are college graduates. These advantageous backgrounds have made the exiles exhibit a high grade of motivation as well as adaptability. Such a combination is to a great degree, the key to the success of Cubans-in-exile.

Another factor which has accelerated the successful transplant of the exiles to North America is the Cuban Refugee Program, financed by the U.S. Government, which provides funds for aid to these needy refugees, and contributes to obtaining work and transportation to other areas for employment, if necessary.

Cuban firms have created more jobs for Puerto Ricans than those that were taken away from them. A construction firm which was organized by a Cuban employs 250 persons and has created sources of indirect subsistance for another 4,000.

Exiles have founded dozens of businesses in San Juan, and various fortunes have been made in construction, real estate, the manufacture of processed foods, banking and commerce. The island is experiencing great prosperity. There is relatively little unemployment and complaints regarding Cuban competence have gradually extinguished. But some exiles still show signs of worry. One of them, who is in the real estate field, said, "Intelligent Cubans take care not to brag of their prosperity in front of Puerto Ricans. In general, we feign a moderate economic situation and try not to awaken local resentment. Wealthy Puerto Ricans like us because they can make use of our skills; the poor like us because we give them jobs; but some middle class elements are annoyed. We have taken the place of some at work and compete with them at all levels". The one who says this possesses a 1966 Falcon, although he could afford the luxury of a new Mercedes 250. The ancient Falcon is kept however, in perfect condition and has a radiotelephone, a luxury which usually goes with a Cadillac.

A Cuban who does not like to make believe he has less is Henry Gutiérrez, an architect who has made millions in the construction business. When Henry arrived in Puerto Rico in 1959, he needed an indorsement to get a 300 dollar loan with which to buy a used car. Today he has a firm which has built factories, office buildings, warehouses, large apartment houses and hotels. He lives in a mansion surrounded by luxury. He goes on safaris to Kenya and Tansania and his fishing exploits on the high seas off of the Virgin Islands has made him the winner of many trophies. Calling himself a "CubaRican" he frankly admits: "If Castro disappears tomorrow, we would not think of leaving Puerto Rico. This is our country".

Other Cubans have fared well in Puerto Rico. Evelio Pina, an exile, is an architect for a gigantic government project: construction of a Civic Center. Miguel Vásquez founded a large meat canning plant which ships to the mainland. Manuel Hernández designs jewelry for the local market and export. Before Cubans arrived, all jewelry was imported. Fernando Pena, a dress designer, is well-known in all the Caribbean area and New York. Luis Rangel is Manager of the Banco Popular. A goodly number of Cubans teach at the University of Puerto Rico; others hold technical positions with the government. The Governor of Puerto Rico, Luis Ferré, Puerto Rican by birth, is the son of Cubans.

IN GUATEMALA: Latin American countries which opened their doors to the exiles have no reason to lament. Guatemala, which at one time was a center of anti-Castro activities, is still home for approximately 400 or 500 exiles who put aside politics and work successfully in the business world. Some of them occupy important positions in banks. Agapito Amaro, organized and directed his own transport truck firm, one of the largest in the country. Other Cubans are proprietors of supermarkets; a meat exporting firm (El Ganadero) and a small chain of furniture stores under the name of El Cañonazo. The richest Cuban in Guatemala is Domingo Moreira, who, besides having made a fortune, is a boon to the country. Moreira, who now dedicates himself to the fishing business and various other activities, encouraged breeding of poultry and production of eggs through modern means. Thanks to him, eggs now being consumed in the country are of the highest quality and cost 60 percent less.

The majority of Cuban residents in Guatemala are loved and have become citizens. But, as their exiled countrymen in other places, they avoid travel by plane. Their greatest fear is to fall into the hands of Castro through hijacking. Guatemala is only two hours from Cuba by jet.

IN SOUTH AMERICA: There has always been a large Cuban colony in Venezuela. After the Castro revolution, between 10,000 and 15,000 exiles settled in Caracas and other cities. A few have become farmers, industrialists and merchants. However, the majority are in other fields. Cubans have become outstanding on radio, television and publicity firms, where they are predominant. There are also doctors, lawyers, architects, chemists and engineers. Some teach at the University of Caracas. The Cuban community there is prosperous.

Large colonies of exiled Cubans do not exist outside of Venezuela, in South America. The most prominent Cuban in Argentina is Goar Mestre, a television magnate in Cuba who lost all to Castro. Now, an Argentine citizen, he has again risen in the television industry. He is the principal proprietor of Channel 13 of Buenos Aires; produces movies for television and organized Proartel, a subsidiary of the Columbia Broadcasting System.

MANY IN MEXICO: Mexico has a relatively large colony of exiles. About 4,000 are residents; several hundred are in the country temporarily while they transact their visas to enter the United States. Mexico restricts the entry of Cubans and not all exiles have obtained authorization to work.

Some Cubans have managed to prosper in business and industry. Robert A. Weill established an important company which designs and constructs industrial plants. Other exiles occupy high executive positions in Mexican firms. One manufacturer of cigars in Guadalajara, David Ornelas, employs an expert Cuban tobacco man in an effort to improve his production. "He has revolutionized my business", says Ornelas, "and is worth much more than what I am paying him".

ON THE PENINSULA: Several thousand Cubans have selected Spain for their exile instead of the United States or Latin America, because Iberia Airlines continues flights between Havana and Madrid. Spain is where many first sought asylum. Others settled in Portugal. El Estoril, was the residence of ex-Cuban dictator, Fulgencio Batista, the most famous, or rather, notorious of the refugees on the Iberian Peninsula He is certainly the richest. But no exile dies of hunger. The energy, initiative and talent of Cubans is the product much appreciated in Spain and Portugal, as occurs in all the other places where Cuban exiles from the island governed by Fidel Castro have settled.

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Howard H. Palmatier
Director
U. S. Cuban Refugee Program

The Cruzes dared to dream of U.S.

By IAN GLASS
Miami News Reporter

Over five years and in four small boats, the family of Mariano Cruz stole away from Fidel Castro's Cuba and risked their lives crossing the Florida Straits to get to America.

Today, the 68-year-old Mariano and his wife, Martina, from whom he was separated by those straits for three years, live in a trim house at 3411 N.W. 9th Ave., with a manicured, fenced-in yard.

On the walls are crucifixes and holy pictures. The Cruz family is a closely-knit group which laughs a lot and has a deep sense of religion.

Sons Mariano Jr., 33, and Ruben, 32, are both married with children, and proudly tell you they are buying their own homes; and pretty, 19-year-old America is being married in September to a 22-year-old draftsman named Miguel Pelayo.

They say, hesitatingly, that they would go back to Cuba if Castro were ousted, but one senses misgivings. All, with the exception of Mariano Jr., who hasn't gotten around to it yet, are American citizens.

Says Ruben: "We are happy for what this country has done for us. Anything I can do for it, I will do."

And Mariano Jr. enjoys the fruits of democracy, writing to the newspapers or calling the authorities at anything he considers an injustice. "He complains about something, even if it's traffic lights, every month," says Ruben jokingly.

Father Mariano, who has a job fueling and working on long-distance buses, beams. He is a proud father.

In those chronicles which record the tales of desperate courage by which many hundreds of exiles fled their homeland in small, unseaworthy boats, the story of the Cruz family stands out.

Ruben the radical was the first to escape Caibarien on Cuba's north coast, where his father farmed.

Ruben, an outspoken young man, spent much of his time in jail, first under former Dictator Fulgencio Batista, then under Castro. In May, 1961, he was released. Two months later, with six others, he boarded a 17-foot sailboat and took off.

It was nine days — the last four without food or water — before the boat, named Emilito, was sighted by a Coast Guard cutter in the Bahamas.

Now Ruben, who is as volatile as ever, has a wife, Rosita, and a daughter, Raquel, 2, ("like in Raquel Welch, si?") and is production manager in a photo-finishing plant.

Mariano Jr., then studying electrical engineering at the University of Havana, came next," I could see how things were going," says Mariano." I went to jail under Batista to help the revolution. This was not what i had fought for."

With 10 others, Mariano Jr. left Caibarien in a 19-foot boat, the Aguila, which had a small outboard motor. It was February, 1962. In five days, they were in Florida — and a few days later, the Cruz parents heard of the Aguila's safe arrival by radio from Miami.

Mariano Jr. served in the U.S. Army for six months, is now a taxi driver, but is studying electronics in the evenings. He married a French girl, Elaine, and they have four children.

Mrs. Cruz and America, then just a child, were the next to leave. Reluctantly, husband Mariano decided to stay behind. His brother had been sent to jail and he felt an obligation to help his sister-in-law tend her farm.

So, on May 26, 1963, Mariano waved off his wife and daughter and 11 others in an 18-foot sailboat which had been named Zoraida. For five days, most of them becalmed, they existed on canned food and raw fish. Then a U.S. destroyer picked them up off the Bahamian island of Anguilla Cay.

America was educated at Immaculata Academy and is studying accounting at Miami-Dade Junior College while working as a secretary at the First National Bank of Miami.

It was almost three years to the day before Mariano's brother was finally released from jail and he felt he was free to go.

From Miami to pick up Mariano and 24 others fleeing Castro came Enrique Oliva and Enrique Gonzales, who had made several such Scarlet Pimpernel-like trips.

Mariano recalls there were no incidents on the three-day voyage; in fact, the 21-foot boat sailed all the way up the Miami River to the Flagler Street bridge, where someone got off and called the Coast Guard to say they had arrived.

And at last, the Cruz family were again one.

There is one sad footnote to the story of the final reconciliation of the family of Mariano Cruz.

Oliva and Gonzalez, who had brought the fifth member safely to these shores, were to meet with tragedy.

Oliva and his passengers on a later trip drowned when their boat capsized.

And Gonzalez died before a Castro firing squad.

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